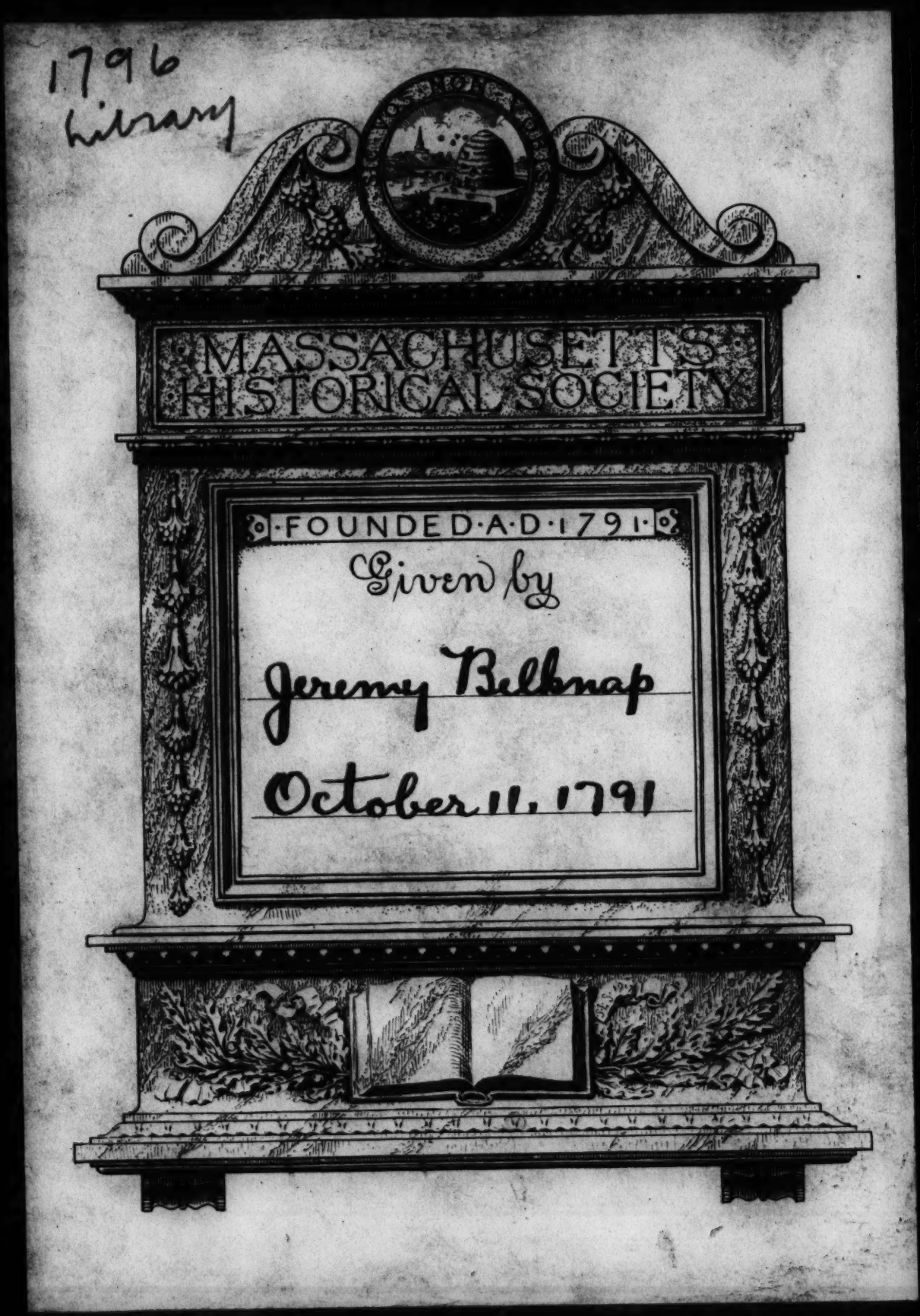
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REASONS *for the Confirmation of the* Charters *belonging to the ſeveral Corporations in* New-England.

Reaſon 1. THE firſt Planters in that *American* Deſart, did without putting the Crown to a Penny charge, inlarge the Kings Dominions, in Confidence that not Themſelves only, but their Poſterity ſhould enjoy thoſe Priviledges which by their Charters were aſſured to them. Now when they have performed their part, and been at vaſt Charges, whereby the Crown and the *Engliſh* Nation have been many wayes advantaged, it will ſeem an hard Caſe, that thoſe Priviledges ſhould be taken from their Children. Nor may we ſuppoſe that in the Dayes of K. *William*, They ſhall be deprived of what was granted to them by K. *James* and K. *Charles* 1. and continued to them by K. *Charles* II. untill the laſt year of his Reign.

Reaſ. 2. To deprive the People there of their ancient Rights and Priviledges by their Charters belonging to them, is to act contrary to His preſent Majeſties gracious Inclinations. For his Majeſty when Prince of *Orange*, in his Declaration aſſures us, that He deſigned *to ſecure to the whole Nation the free Enjoyment of all their Laws, Rights and Liberties.* And in His Majeſties Letter bearing date *Auguſt* 12th. 1689. to thoſe who at preſent adminiſter the Government in the *Maſſachuſets Colony*, his Majeſty is graciouſly pleaſed to ſignifie to them, *that the Government there ſhall be ſettled ſo as ſhall be to the ſatisfaction of His Subjects in that Colony.*

And this was written in Anſwer to their humble Addreſs, praying that their ancient Government by Charter might he reſtored to them ; nor will any thing elſe ſatisfie the generality of the Inhabitants, as is manifeſt by the unanimous Declaration of the *Convention* there, publiſhed at *Boſton* in *New-England*, *May* 24. 1689. As alſo by the ſeveral Addreſſes which ſince that have been humbly preſented to his Majeſty from the ſeveral Colonies in *New-England*. Some that know the Temper of that People, do confidently affirm, That there is not one in an hundred amongſt the Inhabitants in that Territory, which does not deſire that their Government by Charter might be continued to them : If the King ſhall pleaſe to gratifie them therein, They will chearfully Expoſe themſelves and all that is dear to Them in this World, to ſerve his Majeſty. But if their former Rights and Priviledges be with-held from Them, it will cauſe an univerſal diſſatisfaction and diſcouragement amongſt them. Nor can any thing be thought of, that will more Endanger their being ruin'd by the *French*, than the taking from Them their Charter Liberties : As is manifeſt in that, when They enjoyed their Charters, they eaſily ſubdued their Enemies, but ſince that it has been otherwiſe.

Reaſ. 3. The People of *New-England* have acquitted Themſelves ſo, as that we know not what more could have been done by Them to manifeſt their Loyalty to His preſent Majeſty : For as ſoon as ever They heard that the Prince of *Orange* was Landed in *England*, before they knew what the Event of things would be, They Embarqued themſelves in that glorious Cauſe which the Prince declared for. And they no ſooner heard the Prince was King in *England*, but they did with the greateſt Alacrity proclaim

claim Him their King in *New-England*, and that before They had any Command from the Court of *England* ſo to do; and the ſeveral Governments of *New-England*, have of late agreed to defend that Territory for his preſent Majeſty, againſt all Enemies whatever.

Reaſ. 4. Onely one of the Charters belonging to the ſeveral Corporations in *New-England*, was by any Judgment againſt them taken away, *Viz.* the Charter of the *Maſſachuſets*. As for the Colonies of *Conecticot*, and *Rhoad-Iſland*, no Judgment was Entred againſt them: Only pretended Surrenders, of which there is no Record. And as for *Plimouth* Colony (who plead Right to their Priviledges by Preſcription) there was nothing to be alledged againſt them; only their ancient Rights and Priviledges were raviſhed from Them. But we are ſure that His preſent Majeſty will not conſent that theſe Colonies ſhould have their Priviledges taken from Them, whoſe Charters were Never condemned, nor any Legal Surrenders made; and to take away one Charter upon pretence of Forfeiture, when the other Three remain valid, will put the Territory into confuſion; eſpecially conſidering,

Reaſ. 5. The Charter of the *Maſſachuſets* Colony was Illegally wreſted from Them. When the *Quo Warranto* was iſſued out againſt Them, in the Year 1683. the then King did by his Declaration enjoyn a few particular Perſons to make their Defence at their own Charge, without any Help by a publick Stock; which ſhewed there was a Reſolution to take away that Charter: The Suit being let fall in the Court of *Kings Bench*, a new Suit began by *Scire Facias* in Court of *Chancery*, where Time was not allowed to make a Defence. The Agent of that Colony brought

brought ſeveral Merchants to Teſtifie, that in the time allowed, (which was from *April* the 16*th*. till *June* 18.) it was Impoſſible to have a Letter of Attorney returned from *New-England*. The then Lord Keeper *North* replyed, That no time ought to be given, in regard that all Corporations ought to have Attorneys in Court at all times, to appear for Them on all Occaſions. So was Judgment Entred againſt Them before They could plead for Themſelves.

Reaſon 6. The Honourable Houſe of *Commons* in the laſt Parliament, voted, That the taking away Charters from *New-England*, (as well as from the Corporations here in *England*) was Illegal and a Grievance, and that thoſe Charters ſhould be reſtored.

Reaſ. 7. Since Charters were taken from the Corporations in *New-England*, the Crown of *England* has been put to charge to maintain the Government, which it never was before. Nor has any advantage in the leaſt accrued to the Nation, or to the publick Revenue thereby, but the contrary.

Reaſ. 8. Their Charters make them dependent on the Crown of *England*: And as an Acknowledgment thereof, a fifth part of Royal Oar is the Kings. And they are by their Charters bound not to make any Laws repugnant to the Laws of *England*. And they did before the late *Quo Warranto*'s againſt their Charter, Repeal the few Laws which were thought to be ſo. They are obliged to take the Oath of Allegiance; they obey all Acts of Parliament which comprehend them; particularly that which concerns the Regulating of Trade. All Warrants are iſſued out in the Kings Name.

Bound, September 1936